

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a toner resin from a base resin, comprising:
 - conveying a base resin to an aperture in a housing of a toner extruder, the housing surrounding a conveyor;
 - providing a lead-in gap between a wall of the housing and the conveyor at a feed port end of the conveyor;
 - inhibiting adhesion of melted resin to walls of the aperture;
 - adding chemical initiator to a toner extruder;
 - mixing the base resin and the chemical initiator within the extruder to form the mixed resin; and
 - conveying the mixed resin within the extruder to an extruding ~~die~~ die;
 - wherein the lead-in gap inhibits adhesion by smoothing and squeezing resin to the side of the conveyor.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein inhibiting adhesion includes repelling melted base resin into a flow of base resin.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein inhibiting adhesion includes inhibiting heat transfer from the extruder to the base resin at the aperture.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein inhibiting the heat transfer further comprises spacing at least one of the housing and the conveyor from the resin at the aperture.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising premixing the base resin with the chemical initiator.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising cooling the base resin.

7. (Currently Amended) A toner resin preparation method comprising:
providing a base resin;
providing a toner extruder comprising a housing and a conveyor in the housing; placing base resin in the toner extruder;
conveying base resin to an aperture in the toner extruder housing;
providing a lead-in gap between a wall of the housing and the conveyor at a feed port end of the conveyor;
inhibiting adhesion of melted resin to walls of the aperture;
adding chemical initiator to the base resin in the toner extruder;
mixing the base resin and the chemical initiator within the extruder to form a mixed resin;
conveying the mixed resin within the extruder to an extruding die; and
extruding the mixed resin through the extruding die to form toner ~~resin~~ resin,
wherein the lead-in gap inhibits adhesion by smoothing and squeezing resin to the side of the conveyor.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein inhibiting adhesion includes repelling melted base resin into a flow of base resin.
9. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein inhibiting adhesion includes inhibiting heat transfer from the extruder to the base resin at the aperture.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein inhibiting the heat transfer further comprises spacing at least one of the housing and the conveyor from the resin at the aperture.
11. (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising premixing the base resin with the chemical initiator.
12. (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising cooling the base resin.

13. (Currently Amended) In a toner extruder comprising a housing and a conveyor, the housing comprising an aperture and a lead-in gap between a wall of the housing and the conveyor at a feed port end of the conveyor, the aperture having at least one wall, a toner resin preparation method comprising:

providing a base resin;

placing base resin in the toner extruder;

conveying base resin to the aperture in the toner extruder housing;

inhibiting adhesion of melted resin to the at least one wall of the aperture;

adding chemical initiator to the base resin in the toner extruder;

mixing the base resin and the chemical initiator within the extruder to form a mixed resin; conveying the mixed resin within the extruder to an extruding die; and

extruding the mixed resin through the extruding die to form toner ~~resin-resin~~,

wherein the lead-in gap inhibits adhesion by smoothing and squeezing resin to the side of the conveyor.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein inhibiting adhesion includes repelling melted base resin into a flow of base resin.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein inhibiting adhesion includes inhibiting heat transfer from the extruder to the base resin at the aperture.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein inhibiting the heat transfer further comprises spacing at least one of the housing and the conveyor from the resin at the aperture.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising premixing the base resin with the chemical initiator.

18. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising cooling the base resin.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the lead-in gap is on a side of the extruder to which resin flow is directed.

20. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the lead-in gap has movable aspects to vary at least size and shape.

21. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the lead-in gap is on a side of the extruder to which resin flow is directed.

22. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the lead-in gap has movable aspects to vary at least size and shape.

23. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the lead-in gap is on a side of the extruder to which resin flow is directed.

24. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the lead-in gap has movable aspects to vary at least size and shape.